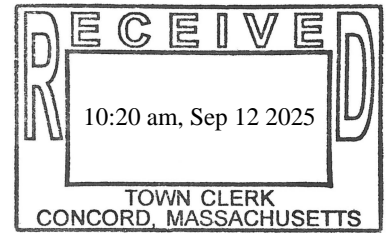


CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE
Wednesday September 17, 2025
7:00 PM
MEETING AGENDA



Meeting Location:

- In person: Select Board Meeting Room, Town House, 22 Monument Square, 2nd Floor
- Remotely, through the following Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89658925084?pwd=dqCN47QKgw07ZKlDa071EnKYbbblfk.1>

Meeting ID: 896 5892 5084

Passcode: 771884

Dial In Toll-Free: 888 475 4499

1. Welcome – comments and announcements [7:00]
2. Meetings and minutes [7:05]
 - a. Approval of August 20 minutes
 - b. Upcoming meeting and event dates: September/October
3. CAC Chair updates [7:15]
 - a. New members, future recruitment
 - b. Status updates on action items and old business from August 20 agenda
 - c. Agriculture Day debrief
4. Planning for Sun Day [7:25]
5. Deputy Town Manager’s update [7:35]
6. Concord Middle School Parent Teacher Group proposal - Rail Trail link [7:45]
7. [Climate Action and Resilience Plan](#) [8:05]
 - a. RFP status and next steps
 - b. Evaluation Committee
 - c. Climate tracker/goals
8. Feedback for EPA on endangerment finding regulations [8:20]
9. Other Updates: [8:40]
 - a. Networked Geothermal
 - b. GSEP/non-pipeline alternatives
10. Public comments [8:50]
11. Adjourn [8:55]

Distribution:

Committee Members: Brad Dye (Chair), Kathryn Hopkins, Brad Hubbard-Nelson (Clerk), Shelly Karlin, Paul Kirshen, Bob Shatten

Town: Town Clerk, Wendy Rovelli (Select Board Liaison), Megan Zammuto (Deputy Town Manager), Shannon McAndrew (Management Specialist)

Local Groups: Mothers Out Front, ConcordCAN, League of Women Voters

Climate Action Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes - 8/20/25

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a public meeting of the CAC was held on August 20th 2025 at 7:00 pm in person at the Concord Municipal Light Plant and via Zoom (hybrid). A recording of this meeting is available on YouTube.

Committee members attending: Brad Dye (BradD, Chair), Brad Hubbard-Nelson (BradHN, Clerk), Shelly Karlin, Bob Shatten, Wendy Rovelli (select board liaison), Shannon McAndrew, Kathryn Hopkins (online)
Community Members present:

Betsy Olsson-Mackowski, Jerry Frenkil, Jessica Langsam, Mark Gailus (TAC chair), Mark Hanson

Meeting began at 7:03 pm

1. Welcome – comments and announcements
 - a. BradHN reported EPA has proposed to rescind the 2009 Endangerment Finding.
 - i. Comments due September 22nd via [Website to submit comments](#)
 - ii. BradHN and Bob to draft comments for CAC for the September meeting.
 - iii. BradD suggested Select Board could also submit comments. Wendy to follow up.
 - b. BradHN had sent an update on changes from MassEnergize, and is seeking one or two people to attend a training for Social Media Magic / Canva / Planable in the next month. Purpose is to share information via social media on sustainable actions. Shelly said she was interested. BradHN to follow up.
2. Meetings and minutes
 - a. Approval of [July 16 minutes](#), with BradD's minor changes incorporated. Adopted unanimously (Shelly moved, Bob second).
 - b. Posting process for documents from/for meetings. Shannon reported that the preferred method is to send documents to her in advance of meeting for the meeting packet. The link to documents is now on the Climate Action Committee web page. Don't necessarily need to send all draft documents to the entire distribution list. If docs edited at meeting, the edited version goes with the posted minutes.
 - c. Upcoming meeting and event dates: August/September. BradD listed several events coming up in the next month, including:
 - i. Sun August 24th: Race Amity Day at Robbins House, annual event.
 - ii. Tue August 26th: 8am Trails committee meeting. Discussing Ebike legislation and bike usage. May be relevant to the Climate Action Plan (CAP) update.
 - iii. Wed. Sep 10 12pm on Zoom: MAPC climate resilience playbook webinar. Megan and BradD to attend.
 - iv. Saturday Sep 20: at Fowler library, Susan Edwards Richmond book event on pollinators.
 - v. Sunday Sep 21 at 4pm is the annual Stone Soup dinner at Verill Farm
 - vi. Oct 18th - town clerk training for committee work. BradD would like CAC members to attend.
 - d. Planning for Ag Day, 9/6 from 10-2. CAC has a table.
 - i. BradHN planning to promote Sun Day at Ag Day and may have a couple of posters to show at Ag Day.
 - ii. Shannon reported that Eric Simms had left a box of material for such events, she will check what is there.

- iii. BradD asked if the Your Sustainable Home Now brochure had been reprinted. He had specified updates which hadn't been made yet. We might need to get a graphic artist to update the brochure. Previously [Tami Amoroso](#) had done the graphics.
 - iv. A sun umbrella can be useful if it is hot. Shannon to check whether there is an extra plain umbrella
 - v. Shannon found graphics Eric had used last year. - update for announcing Sun Day
 - e. BradHN reported on planning for Sun Day, September 21st. The theme is celebrating what people have already done with solar and sustainable energy, and encouraging others to do it too. Planning group is having regular meetings with the plan so far as follows:
 - i. The event will be outside at First Parish church. Was to be 3-5pm, will try to change to 2-4pm to avoid conflict with Stone Soup dinner.
 - ii. As easy as possible, no vendors, any groups can participate in keeping with the theme. Groups with tables which publicize the event, through newsletters and social media.
 - iii. Community art projects from Art for All and kids art project from Emerson Umbrella.
 - iv. Very short "lightning" testimonials from residents.
 - v. CMLP will have coaches for EV's and heat pumps.
 - vi. Plan is to rent Climate Games from MassEnergize which had been used at the 2024 Climate Festival for \$100 and will check with Megan Zammuto for approval.
 - vii. BradHN proposed that CAC be lead sponsor of the event, which committee voted to approve unanimously. (BradD proposed, Kathryn second)
 - viii. Betsy suggested that Willson Kerr may be interested in participating.
 - ix. Next planning meeting on 8/21 at 4:30pm.
 - x. Bob expressed interest in participating in the planning, BradHN will invite him.
3. CAC Chair updates
- a. New members, future recruitment. Reminder every CAC member should provide one name to BradD, so he can add one member to get to full membership.
 - b. State and federal government update
 - i. MA legislature passed joint rules. Net effect of reforms will be a higher level of communication on the calendar, important for advocacy organizations (10 days notice of hearings rather than 2 or 3. Also less of a log jam at end of July in even years.
 - ii. Budget delivered to governor, passed by legislature on 7/29. They also filed a supplemental budget since some work was unfinished. Healey administration has embargoed earmarks for now. Federal budget cuts result in state budget uncertainty.
 - iii. A \$3B environmental bond bill filed by Governor Healey (senate bill S2542), which had a public hearing on 7/15. Includes many things including \$505M for clean water infrastructure and PFAS mitigation, \$401M for flood control, \$315M proposed addition to MVP program. This funding is earmarkable, so Concord could take advantage of it with a 3-5 year window with a bond authorization. For example there is some language around composting, we might be able use that for a new program. Would need to be in contact with Sen. Barrett and Rep. Cataldo soon. BradD to meet with Shannon and Megan about what Town should

- do. Relatively easy to get a bond authorization in. BradHN suggested perhaps usable for a geothermal network.
 - iv. MVP Program from DOER is what funded original CAP. The Town submitted a proposal in April for MVP funding of the watershed project. We should have heard by now whether that was approved, BradD to check.
 - c. Status updates on action items and old business from July 16 agenda
 - i. BradHN didn't follow up with NC4 group.
 - ii. MCAN webinar on state policy , BradD to send link to recording
 - iii. Transportation review: Rebecca Woodward continuing work on transportation section. Meeting with Elizabeth Hughes later this month on transportation section on biking and pedestrian safety.
 - d. BradD received statements from DEI Commission - which were beyond the scope of CAC.
4. Deputy Town Manager's update (Shannon McAndrew, management specialist, reporting to Megan).
- a. Town recently completed project on UV Filter at Beede to improve water quality and reduce chemical use
 - b. Acting building commissioner led a meeting with builders and architects and residents on Fossil Free Bylaw, specialized building code and accessory dwelling units.
 - c. Megan is beginning November reporting for Green Communities
 - d. Megan recently launched Civic Concord podcast and a revised bimonthly newsletter which could be useful for community feedback on CAP.
 - e. Bob asked whether amenities building considered composting toilets. BradD said that EPA regs don't allow them due to being close to the water supply.
 - f. Jerry Frenkil asked about the Decarbonization Roadmap which Eric had initiated with DOER. We need to generate and provide information to Power Options for the roadmap. Shannon to follow up with Megan.
5. Climate Action and Resilience Plan update
- a. RFP scope, full draft and next steps
 - i. BradHN made 3 comments. Great work overall, almost ready to submit. He liked that it says identify Steps, Costs and potential Funding, but identifying costs (which wasn't in the first CAP) seems like a big ask. Last bullet of "Action Identification" says "This list will then be used as the foundation for Task 3: Action Prioritization." which isn't relevant. Finally Page 17 had a mention of CAAB which doesn't exist. Kathryn commented that regarding costs there out to be a discussion of the cost of inaction as well, since things cost more in the long run if put off. BradHN said this is tricky since for emissions the costs of inaction are spread around the world.
 - ii. BradD asked for time frame to complete draft. Finance dept asked to review, and will review after comments incorporated. Megan goal is RFP published in early September with selection in October. Shannon will resend the Word version of the RFP.
 - b. Evaluation Committee for interviews in mid-late October, in person
 - i. Megan had asked who from CAC should be on the committee. BradD suggests only one CAC person to avoid OML constraints of a subcommittee. Mark Gailus suggested checking with the Town Clerk or AGO since it may be an exception for a group to advise a town officer, though MCI considered such a committee a subcommittee. Selection committee will advise the Town Manager. Kathryn suggested having one person (not committee members) from each of the 5

pillars of CAP. BradHN would be willing to be on the committee. Bob interested. Also Paul may be interested as well. Could have representatives from TAC, Natural resources, CMLP, CPW. Will make a decision on this in September.

6. Composting pilot program and next steps.
 - a. Shannon shared slides on composting survey (Attachment 1).
 - i. 187 responses submitted who were on the list.
 - ii. Program costed about \$10K cost total (36% of sustainability budget).
 - iii. Mostly single family households responded.
 - iv. Unsure how many people have used the program in total.
 - b. Next steps for phase II:
 - i. Megan felt she was spending too much time on this topic but wants to evaluate what other options are available.
 - ii. Kathryn: don't know what the residential financial appetite is for curbside pickup. If we could get townwide curbside service, that would be a win but unknown cost for the town. And it couldn't happen for a year.
 - iii. BlackEarth is \$120/year for weekly, \$60 for every two weeks and customers can get some compost back from BlackEarth.
 - iv. BradD: Would be good to survey the rest of the market to understand better what to do, that is where the price point comes into play..
 - v. Bob asked about restaurants. They werent allowed to use the pilot bins. Betsy said Nashoba Bakery does it.
 - vi. Kathryn said Town already had a relationship with BlackEarth since the schools use it. She suggested having Blackearth create an offering for multifamily so everyone has an option to compost.
 - vii. Shelly asked about what the total tonnage was for the pilot, and what total registered users were. 2020 CAP did have a curbside composting pilot, but that wasn't done.
 - viii. BradHN : CAC should focus bigger items on the CAP to spend our time on.
 - ix. Bob commented that BlackEarth isn't recovering the methane, but there are companies doing anaerobic digestion.
7. Hanscom Taxiways E reconstruction and E5 construction.
 - a. Wendy reported on the massport review of Hanscom taxi way project, which is really a maintenance project. Not a runway expansion, but connection to optimize queueing of planes. Scheduled for next spring-summer.
 - b. Hanscom Naval Hanger project is going through review proces now. On Aug 29th requesting a waiver of NEPA process so that hanger project could go forward with out the larger hanger project that had been proposed. May discuss in September CAC meeting.
8. Other Updates:
 - a. Networked Geothermal.
 - i. BradHN reported on ongoing meetings on neighborhood electrification, organized by MOF chapter, part of Gas Transition Allies coalition (Betsy Olsson-Mackowski)
 - ii. GSEP (Gas System Enhancement Plan). Three project listed by NGrid in 2026-2029 that are potential "Non Pipeline Alternatives". DPU requesting community input on these alternatives by end of September.

3-46 POND ST, CON	Yes - Potential NPA	425
4-195 THOREAU ST, CON	Yes - Potential NPA	3,590
42-138 CRESCENT RD, CON	Yes - Potential NPA, entire	4,055

- iii. Betsy shared a letter she wrote to the Select Board (Attachment 2), a draft for feedback. The ask is for CAC is to write to the Select Board, not the DPU. CAC could write directly to the DPU. BradHN says Select Board is closer to the action since they have to approve any utility plans.
 - 1. BradHN proposed this letter come from CAC together with MOF, without further input from the committee. BradHN would clean this up together with Betsy. (Bob seconded). Unanimously approved.
 - iv. BradHN said we may also want to survey the homes in those neighborhoods as to whether they want to get off gas. Could use help from other committee members. Bob indicated he could help.
 - v. Betsy also has a petition which could be circulated at Ag day on neighborhood interest in electrification.
9. Public comments
- a. Mark Gailus reported that ongoing effort, in parallel with CAP update, towards public transportation projects. Hoping for CAC support in this. Stantec should be giving preliminary report in Sep-October. The TAC website has a citizen input form to file comments on safety and transportation projects.
10. Adjourned at 9:15pm. Next meeting scheduled for September 17th at Town House.

Attachments:

- 1. Composting Survey Response Data 8.13.25 - Powerpoint presentation
- 2. Draft letter to Select Board on GSEP Projects.

Concord Climate Action Committee - Comments on Endangerment Finding (DRAFT)

September 15, 2025

Lee Zeldin, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: Proposed Rule, Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards,” 90 Fed. Reg. 36,288 (Aug. 1, 2025)

Docket No.: EPA–HQ–OAR–2025–0194; FRL–12715–01–OAR

To Administrator Zeldin,

We, the Climate Action Committee of Concord, MA, are vehemently opposed to the Environmental Protection Agency plan to reconsider the 209 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards. As a group of scientists and concerned citizens devoted to addressing the causes and impacts of climate change in our community, the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, including CO₂, CH₄, NO₂ and many synthetic chemicals by the EPA is of critical importance to preserving a livable climate for our children and future generations around the world.

We understand the science, and categorically reject the Department of Energy “critical assessment” report in July written by several hand-picked scientists chosen based on their denial of the scientific consensus. The report they produced contains many errors, incorrect assumptions and omissions of facts inconvenient to the arguments they make. These flaws and misleading claims (over 100 according to a report by Carbon Brief¹) have been thoroughly debunked over and over again by knowledgeable scientists. Science which informs policy must rely on peer-reviewed work, and to use cherry-picked inaccurate claims to overturn policy is a travesty which our Nation should be ashamed of; nearly all other countries understand and accept their responsibility to address the worsening climate crisis, though this administration of the United States of America, the most wealthy and most powerful country in the world, may decide to reject responsibility due to short term corporate interests.

The work of our committee and many others like us is to help Americans take a different path, by reducing and eventually eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use, using new technologies which are improving rapidly, and which will not harm the economy or standard of living but improve them. They include:

- Conversion of our electricity grid to GHG emissions free sources: these include wind and solar power and are made dispatchable with storage batteries. Improving technology

¹ *Factcheck: Trump’s climate report includes more than 100 false or misleading claims,*
<https://interactive.carbonbrief.org/doe-factcheck/index.html>

and lowering cost have made these sources economically feasible and less polluting than fossil gas, oil and coal.

- Transition from gasoline to electric vehicles: electric cars and trucks have improved to the extent that they compete in cost and performance with traditional vehicles. The infrastructure for charging these vehicles should be supported by the Administration, and also the development and importation of lower cost, high performance vehicles should be supported strongly.
- Heat pump technology: both air-sourced and ground-sourced heat pumps can make homes and buildings comfortable at affordable cost in our communities.

These and many other actions people and industry can take are essential to support and encourage. They will require investments which are affordable for our Nation and which will save a great deal of expense over time, especially compared to reactive spending on environmental disasters made worse by climate disruption. Through these investments the United States can and should be a leader in the effort to slow and reverse climate change.

The Environmental Protection Agency must serve as a protector of our national and global environment. We urge you to uphold the Endangerment Finding and maintain strong vehicle emission standards, in line with the EPA's longstanding mission. These protections are vital for public health, environmental safety, and economic security, and they directly enable communities like Concord to succeed in advancing climate goals.